

**Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Policy Advisory Council**

December 15, 2023

Agenda Item 6c

Staff Liaison Report

Subject:

Overview of recent MTC policy decisions and other activities.

Issues:

None identified.

Recommendations:

Information

Attachments:

- Attachment A: Staff Liaison Report – December 2023

Staff Liaison Report – December 2023

Executive Director’s Report:

The following items are excerpts from the November 2023 Executive Director’s Report to the Commission. To read past reports in their entirety, check the agenda for a given Commission meeting (search for past meetings on [MTCs Legistar webpage](#)).

Key Updates:

- **CTC Recommends Two Bay Area Projects for Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program:** California Transportation Commission (CTC) released the staff recommendations for the Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program (LTCAP) earlier this month. This competitive cycle of LTCAP included roughly \$300 million in funding available statewide for the development and implementation of capital projects adapting local transportation infrastructure to climate changes. CTC’s staff recommendations include \$56 million for two projects in the Bay Area: \$6 million for BART (Expansion and Contraction of Steel Rail in Contra Costa County) and \$50 million for MTC (Resilient SR-37 Sears Point to Mare Island Improvement). The proposed award to MTC will improve the resilience of SR-37 to better withstand rising seas and storm surges. The CTC will consider adopting the LTCAP program at its December 6-7 meeting in Riverside.
- **Bay Wheels Bikeshare Expansion:** On November 3, I was joined by MTC Chair Alfredo Pedroza and ABAG President Jesse Arreguin at a Bay Wheels bikeshare program press event announcing the addition of 2,300 new e-bikes and docking stations to San Francisco, San Jose, Oakland, Berkeley and Emeryville, and a price reduction in annual Bay Wheels membership and usage rates. In related news, Commissioner Matt Mahan participated in the November 7th celebration of Bay Wheels’ San Jose e-bike expansion.
- **SMART’s Petaluma North Station Groundbreaking:** SMART celebrated the groundbreaking of the Petaluma North Station on November 9. In addition to transportation benefits, the project will also support 131 new affordable housing units adjacent to the station. MTC was represented at the groundbreaking by Commissioner and SMART board member David Rabbitt, Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix

Bockelman, former Commissioner (and state assemblymember) Damon Connolly, and former Commissioner Jake Mackenzie.

- **Working Waterfront Coalition:** Last week, I joined leaders of the Working Waterfront Coalition to visit Oakland's Fremont High School Pre-Apprenticeship program. The Coalition is an employer-led, state-funded regional workforce development effort focused on growing the Bay Area's waterfront economy by training young people and those reentering the workforce from the criminal justice system. The Coalition includes the Port of Oakland, multiple county workforce development boards (Alameda, Contra Costa, Solano), unions, as well as participating employers. Waterfront jobs offer good careers with excellent benefits and are especially helpful in achieving diversity, equity and inclusion goals.

Programs like the one offered by Fremont High School offer trade-skills training to supplement, or as an alternative to, four-year college-track programs. Access to reliable transportation is a key determining success factor for the participants, and we are studying ways MTC might innovate. For example, Solano Mobility, developed by the Solano Transportation Authority, uses OBAG funds to offer discounted rideshare services to older adults, students, people with disabilities and others, and might be a good model to build upon.

- **Local Government Roundtable:** On November 6, Chief Deputy Executive Director Alix Bockelman and MTC's Regional Planning Program Director Matt Maloney participated in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research's Local Government Roundtable. Several Bay Area city managers were also in attendance, including those from Oakland, Santa Rosa and Petaluma.
- **Large Bridge Project Program Grant Application:** BATA is submitting a grant application this month to the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Large Bridge Project Program to fund the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge West Span Revitalization & Innovation Project. This aligns with the Bay Area Regional Priority Project List, under which the region's top priority for this program, the Golden Gate Bridge Seismic Retrofit, successfully secured funding last year.

- **COMTO NorCal 20th Annual Gala:** The annual gala will took place on December 1 and amongst industry winners are my predecessor, Therese McMillan, who was presented with the Shirley Douglas Lifetime Achievement award and MTC’s own DeNise Blake who was presented with the Member of the Year award. Heartfelt congratulations are extended to them both on these very deserving recognitions.
- **Holiday Wreath Returns to Yerba Buena Island Tunnel:** Earlier this month, BATA kicked off the holiday season with installation of the holiday wreath over the westbound portal of the Yerba Buena Island Tunnel on the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge. The inspiration for this tradition was a wreath placed in this same spot in 1937. This year’s installation was overseen by BATA staff James Go and marks the 12th annual installment since BATA revived the tradition in 2011. We can officially now say “Happy Holidays!”

News Headlines from [The Bay Link Blog](#):

- **[San Francisco Bay Ferry receives \\$16 million grant to propel fleet electrification, Golden Gate Ferry \\$6 million for Sausalito Terminal](#):** The San Francisco Bay Area Water Emergency Transportation Authority (WETA) was awarded a \$16 million grant from the Federal Transit Administration to transition its fleet to zero-emission propulsion technology and Golden Gate Ferry received \$6 million to rehabilitate the Sausalito ferry terminal and boarding systems. The FTA awards were announced Thursday.
- **[Regional Mapping & Wayfinding initiative launches web portal, emphasis on accessibility and equity](#):** The Regional Mapping and Wayfinding project underway throughout the Bay Area to make transit journeys easier to understand now has a [new web portal\(link is external\)](#) on the MTC website.
- **[Senate hearing spotlights transit operations as select Committee hears testimony from Bay Area leaders](#):** MTC Executive Director Andrew Fremier and more than a dozen other Bay Area transportation leaders and policy advocates testified Monday afternoon [at a hearing convened by the state Senate Select Committee on Bay Area Public Transit\(link is external\)](#) in San Francisco that highlighted the impact of the fiscal 2023-24 state budget and its inclusion of \$1.1 billion in flexible funding to help California transit agencies avoid near-term service cuts as well as the future fiscal challenges expected by many Bay Area transit agencies.

- **[Wednesday Metro Talks: advancing health and equity in the Bay Area's quest for climate resilience](#)**: A [Metro Talks webinar at 3 p.m. Wednesday, November 29th\(link is external\)](#) will discuss how to advance health and equity in the Bay Area's quest for climate resilience.
- **[MTC funded work on I-80 Solano Express Lanes continues](#)**: Construction is continuing on Interstate 80 Express Lanes in Solano County, with MTC providing almost half the money for the project that will help the flow of traffic along 18 miles of the freeway.
- **[Bay Area pavement marked by mediocrity as pothole problems persist](#)**: Overall pavement conditions on the Bay Area's 44,000 lane-miles of local streets and roads landed once again in fair territory last year, with the typical stretch of roadway showing serious wear and likely to require rehabilitation soon.
- **[MTC approves emergency transit operations funding plan from Senate Bill 125](#)**: The Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved an emergency transit operations funding plan that, if approved by the state, will use state and regional funds for transit operations to address Bay Area transit agencies' most dire funding shortfalls and help them avoid service cuts.
- **[Isleton Bridge turns 100](#)**: Caltrans celebrated the 100th birthday of the Isleton Bridge on State Route 160, which crosses the Sacramento River near Isleton, about four miles northeast of Rio Vista in the Delta.

The [Bay Link blog](#) offers a more in-depth look at these topics, often in the context of the work that the ABAG and MTC are doing, along with other stories of interest to Bay Area residents and professionals. The Bay Link Blog E-Newsletter, with the top Bay Link features of the week, is distributed every Tuesday. You can find more newsletters to subscribe to at this [link](#).

Have a Question? Ask a Librarian

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For MTC and Plan Bay Area Glossaries:

- [Glossary of Transportation Planning Acronyms & Terms](#)
- [Plan Bay Area Glossary](#)